Under Pradhan Mantri Gram Sadak Yojna (PMGSY), road connectivity in the rural areas has been taken up in all the eight States of North Eastern Region and special relaxation in programme specific norms and guidelines have been made to connect a large number of habitations particularly in hill/mountainous areas through cluster approach.

**Rail Connectivity**

Out of eight capital cities of North Eastern Region, only two are connected with rail network. Projects have been taken up for another four capital cities. The details of new rail line projects in the region are given in the Statement.

***Statement***

*New rail line projects in NE Region*

| S.No. | Project | Kms. |
|---|---|---|
| 1. | Agartala-Sabroom | 110 |
| 2. | Azra-Byrnihat | 30 |
| 3. | Bhairabi-Sairang | 51.38 |
| 4. | Bogibeel bridge with linking lines between Dibrugarh and North Bank line | 73 |
| 5. | Dimapur-Kohima (Zubza) | 88 |
| 6. | Dudhnoi-Depa | 15.5 |
| 7. | Harmuti-Itanagar | 33 |
| 8. | Jiribam-Imphal Road (Tupul) | 97.9 |
| 9. | Kumarghat-Agartala* | 109 |
| 10. | New Maynaguri-Jogighopa | 257 |

*Kumarghat-Agartala has been completed and commissioned.

**Forest cover in the country**

†422. DR. MURLI MANOHAR JOSHI:
SHRI RAJ MOHINDER SINGH MAJITHA:

Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that according to a survey report about 23 per cent land of the country is under the forest cover;

(b) if so, the area under dense forest in the country and such area in each State;

(c) whether it is a fact that this much percentage of forests is not sufficient to maintain proper balance of climate;

(d) if so, the reaction of Government in this regard;

(e) whether there is any scheme to augment area under dense forest cover; and

(f) if so, the land required in each State to enhance dense forest cover?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS (SHRI S. REGUPATHY): (a) As per State of Forest Report (SFR) 2005, the forest cover in the country is 20.6% of geographical area. If the tree cover, which is 2.79% of geographical area is also included, then the total forests and tree cover comes to 23.39%.

(b) All lands with a forest cover (canopy density) of 40% and above are classified as dense forests. The details of dense forest area in the country, State wise, is given in the statement (*See* below).

(c) and (d) As per the National Forest Policy, 1988 the national goal should be to have a minimum of one-third of the total land area of the country under forest or tree cover. The Government is continuously making efforts through policy level initiatives as well as by supporting the afforestations activities in the States for achieving the national goal.

(e) and (f) The proportion of dense forest cover in the country can be increased by two ways. First, by the improvement and enrichment of open forests through assisted natural regeneration and plantations. This does not require any additional land in the States. The second way is by bringing land outside the forest areas under forest or tree cover in the States.

For achieving these two objectives, the Ministry has been operating its flagship scheme titled "National Afforestation Programme" to support afforestation activities in the States with peoples' participation. In addition, under the National Mission for a 'Green India', which is one of the recently announced 'Eight National Missions' by Government of India, the Ministry is proposing to treat 5 million ha. of degrades forests with 40% less than crown cover, and to additionally afforest 18 million ha. of other available lands, such as, degraded land, wasteland, community lands, public lands, land with Defence, Railways, Surface Transport and other Government Departments. The implementation period of the Mission would be eight years starting from 2009-2010.

***Statement***

*Details of Land classified as dense forest*

| State/UT | Geographic Area (Km2) | Dense Forest Cover (Km2) |
|---|---|---|
| 1 | 2 | 3 |
| Andhra Pradesh | 275,069 | 24,329 |
| Arunachal Pradesh | 83,743 | 52,388 |

| 1 | 2 | 3 |
|---|---|---|
| Assam | 78,438 | 12,831 |
| Bihar | 94,163 | 3,114 |
| Chhattisgarh | 135,191 | 38,728 |
| Delhi | 1,483 | 54 |
| Goa | 3,702 | 1,150 |
| Gujarat | 196,022 | 6,138 |
| Haryana | 44,212 | 526 |
| Himachal Pradesh | 55,673 | 8,928 |
| Jammu and Kashmir | 222,236 | 10,529 |
| Jharkhand | 79,714 | 11,622 |
| Karnataka | 191,791 | 22,098 |
| Kerala | 38,863 | 9,660 |
| Madhya Pradesh | 308,245 | 41,082 |
| Maharashtra | 307,713 | 28,384 |
| Manipur | 22,327 | 6,464 |
| Meghalaya | 22,429 | 7,146 |
| Mizoram | 21,081 | 6,306 |
| Nagaland | 16,579 | 5,838 |
| Orissa | 155,707 | 28,194 |
| Punjab | 50,362 | 723 |
| Rajasthan | 342,239 | 4,470 |
| Sikkim | 7,096 | 2,410 |
| Tamil Nadu | 130,058 | 12,440 |
| Tripura | 10,486 | 5,030 |
| Uttar Pradesh | 240,928 | 5,979 |
| Uttarakhand | 53,483 | 18,398 |
| West Bengal | 88,752 | 6,079 |
| Andaman and Nicobar Islands | 8,249 | 6,005 |
| Chandigarh | 114 | 9 |

| 1 | 2 | 3 |
|---|---|---|
| Dadra and Nagar Haveli | 491 | 130 |
| Daman and Diu | 112 | 2 |
| Lakshadweep | 32 | 15 |
| Pondicherry | 480 | 17 |
| TOTAL | 3,287,263 | 387216 |

**Pollution in Yamuna**

423. SHRIMATI JAYA BACHCHAN:
SHRI N.K. SINGH:

Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) the current status of environmental pollution in the Yamuna river;

(b) whether it is a fact that Yamuna river got much dirtier recently when water plants had to be closed due to non-availability of power resulting inconsiderable increase of ammonia in its water;

(c) whether any action has been taken against power supply companies in this regard; and

(d) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS (SHRI NAMO NARAIN MEENA): (a) As per the water quality monitoring undertaken through independent institutions, the water quality in the stretch of the river Yamuna from Tajewala to Palla in Haryana is found to be within the prescribed limits. However, the stretch of the river in the vicinity of Delhi (downstream of Wazirabad barrage to upstream of Okhla barrage) and parts of Uttar Pradesh exceeds the standards in terms of Bio-chemical Oxygen Demand of 3.0 miligram per litre (mg/l) mainly due to enormous increase in pollution load and lack of fresh water in the river during lean period.

(b) to (d) As per information provided by Delhi Jal Board, the water treatment plants at Wazirabad and Chandrawal in Delhi, were shut down recently, due to high ammonia levels in Yamuna water. The problem of increase of ammonia in river water of Yamuna is not perennial. It occurs only due to sudden release of fresh water from Haryana (to meet the raw water demand for Delhi), that results in mixing of settled sludge in the river bed.

**Losses due to inter-State movement of tuskers**

424. SHRI SHANTARAM LAXMAN NAIK: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state: